



# News from 10,000 Feet!

September 2011

Brian Head Town News

Volume 3



Bryce Haderlie,  
Brian Head Town Manager

## Town Manager's Message

The construction of the Brian Head Public Safety Building is well underway and the contractor Larry Pendleton is pushing the crews six days a week to get it ready for partial use before winter sets in. As we reflect on the importance of being prepared for an emergency, it's a good time to think about our own personal actions.

The Fire Department conducted an exercise on August 24, 2011 and realized that many of the cabins and properties lack adequate addressing. The Building Code states that the address shall be *"placed in a position that is plainly visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with the background [and] be a minimum 4 inches high with a minimum 1/2 inch stroke width."*

There's nothing more frustrating than driving down a dark road looking for a correct address and it gets even worse when it's an emergency and seconds count. We encourage you to check your property and ensure that you comply with these minimum

standards. It will help the pizza delivery man find you on a dark and cloudy night and could even be a matter of life and death.

## 2011 Brian Head Property Taxes Decreased by 5%

True to their word, the Brian Head Town Council decreased the portion of property taxes under their control by 5% this year! The current property values were figured by the Iron County Assessor's Office, and then the Iron County Auditor set the tax rates. After review, the Brian Head Town Council decreased the proposed tax rates suggested by the Iron County Auditor by 5%.

There are several different parts of the property tax. To be clear . . . . the Town Council only decreased Brian Head's General Fund property taxes. The Brian Head Debt Service portion of the property taxes and the taxes levied by the school district and the county are unaffected by this action.

The tax decrease will reduce the Town's revenue by \$40,000 for the 2011/2012 budget year. Because of changes in assessed valuations it appears that the property tax decrease will lower the total tax bill for vacant lot owners and condominium unit owners. However, homeowners may see a tax increase because Utah law says cities, counties and school districts get a set amount of revenue from property tax each year no matter what happens to property values. When (property) values decrease, the tax rate is allowed to rise so the same amount of money is generated. When values rise, the rate is lowered, again resulting in the same amount of revenue for local government entities.

Local governments can rely on that constant source of revenue, unlike sales tax, which can fluctuate and drop off when the economy slows.

The Town Council wanted to do its part to help homeowners with the struggling economy and felt that, by decreasing Brian Head's portion of property taxes, this would be one small way to help taxpayers.

## New Bulk Water System

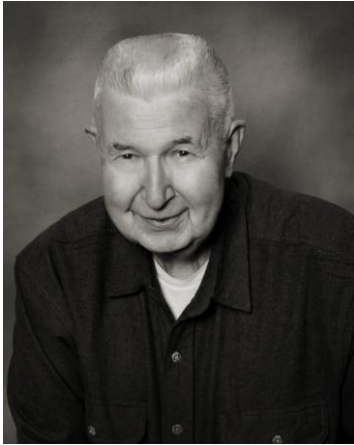
Brian Head Town has a new bulk water dispenser. This will replace the bulk water system that residents were using at the old fire station. The new bulk water dispenser is located behind the Town Hall at 56 North Highway 143. It is accessible 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. You can either 1) come into the Town Offices, during the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday (excluding Holidays) and set up a prepaid account with cash or check; or 2) set up an account (during Town business hours) that will be assessed on your utility bill; or 3) purchase the water (anytime) with the following credit cards: Visa, Discover, Master Card, and American Express!

The cost of the water is still just \$100 per thousand gallons.

We wanted to make purchasing the water easier for residents, since they can now get it at nights and on weekends when the Town Offices are closed.

If anyone needs water (resident or not), this water dispenser is available to all!

Introducing the Brian Head Town Council . . . . .



**H.C. "Dutch" Deutschlander  
(Mayor)**

Mayor Deutschlander moved to Brian Head in the fall of 1976. From spring of 1977 to 1987 he served as a Town Council member (10 of the 11 years). He has been the Mayor from 1988-1994 and 1998-current). His current term expires December 31, 2013.

Mayor Deutschlander served in the U.S. Marine Corps starting in June 1953 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in October 1975. He is highly educated and has a wealth of experience in Town Government. Some of his achievements are:

- Served as Vice Chair of the Iron County Coordinating Council from January 1998 to present
- Served on the Iron County Travel Council for several years
- Is the Iron County Mayoral Representative to Five County Area Government Steering Committee
- Is a Five County Area of Government Representative to Utah Community Block Grant Board
- Is Co-Chair of Utah 143, Utah's patchwork parkway organizing committee (representing Iron County - since 2002)

Mayor Deutschlander is currently the owner/Manager of Brian Head Reservation Center. He is also the

President (and part-owner) of Brian Head Sports.

The Mayor is the father of four – Chip, Jolene, Tim and Doug. He has seven grandchildren.



**Linda S. Ames (Councilor)**

Linda Ames has lived in Brian Head since 1995. She also owns a home in Tucson, Arizona. She has had an interesting life and has been able to travel around the world. Even though she has traveled many places, Linda says, "Brian Head is the best place to live." She loves it!

Linda is in the second year of her four-year term serving as a member of the Town Council. She enjoys the many challenges that come with being a Council member and studies each issue carefully.

Linda was a proud member of the United States Air Force and was a Lieutenant Colonel at the time of her military retirement. During her military career, Linda lived in England and Germany.

Linda also taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade for many years. Her husband, Milton, is currently on active duty with the United States Air Force. They have two daughters – Alexandra and Alison and a dog, Lucy. Linda is a member of Toastmasters, a public speaking program.



**Stewart Fausett (Councilor)**

In 2006 Stewart was appointed to fill-in as a Town Council member for someone that left their term early. He then ran for a Council position in 2007. He won the election and is serving his sixth year as a Town Council member. Stewart has re-filed for Council and will be in the election this year.

Stewart enjoys the resort atmosphere and has made many friends with people from all over the world through his position as bartender for Cedar Breaks Lodge. He has lived in Brian Head for 22 years and is now the Manager of the Cedar Breaks Bar and Grill.

Stewart is currently serving as President of the Brian Head Chamber of Commerce.

*Read more about Stewart Fausett on page 7 of this newsletter.*

*(Town Council - continued on page 3)*

**"Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected."**

**-George Washington**

## Town Council

(continued from page 2)



**Jim Ortler (Councilor)**

Jim Ortler is in his 12th year serving Brian Head on the Town Council. He has been very active and has been instrumental in achieving many of the councils' goals over the years, including an annexation, several Special Improvement Districts, numerous capital projects and many ordinances.

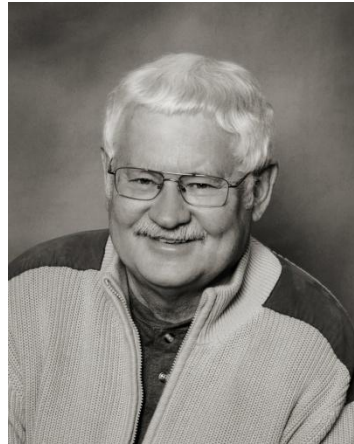
Jim has represented Brian Head at the Utah League of Cities and Towns' Legislative Policy Committee for nine years and served two years on the League's Board of Directors and three times on the League's Nominations Committee.

Jim has owned property in Brian Head since 1978 and has lived here full time since 1992. Before moving to Brian Head, Jim spent nearly ten years with the accounting giant Price Waterhouse where he was a Senior Manager and before that he spent over ten years as an Air Force Civilian where he was a GS14 in the procurement field.

Here in Brian Head, Jim is involved in several businesses including High Country Realty, Brian Head Local Storage, High Country Property Management and the Brian Head General Store. "I really like living in Brian Head and plan to stay here for life. Serving on the council has been

very satisfying and I have enjoyed making a difference."

As you can see, Jim Ortler has an abundance of knowledge when it comes to Town issues. Through his experience, he has learned how to balance out helping the citizens, along with recognizing the Town employees' needs.



**Hans Schwob (Councilor)**

Hans Schwob is serving his second year of his second term as a Town Council member.

Hans has been a property owner in Brian Head since 1987. He retired from Xerox Corporation, after working there for 30 years.

Hans was born in East Germany and immigrated to Canada when he was 5 years old. He then moved to the United States when he was 16.

Hans served in the United States Air Force for seven years. He is married to Margaret and they have two sons.

Hans is always looking for ways to help the Town residents and feels he has their best interest at heart.

**"The price of greatness is responsibility."**

*-Winston Churchill*



**New Bulk Water Dispenser (located behind Brian Head Town Hall)**

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## Town Tidbits

- It is the goal of the Town Council to keep Town residents informed on important issues. Please read about informative matters in the Town newsletters. Do you have an issue you want addressed? If so, please contact Cecilia Johnson at [cajohnson@bhtown.utah.gov](mailto:cajohnson@bhtown.utah.gov).
- Recognizing the continuing economic downturn and the resulting hardship for property owners, the Brian Head Town employees did not receive a raise in pay for 2011. The Town Council recognizes the strength of the services that are provided are a direct result of the efforts of the Town employees, but have determined that this is not an opportune time to increase wages.
- Do you want to be notified of Town meetings? You can sign up to receive instant notifications of all public meetings (for Brian Head or anywhere else in the State of Utah). Just go to the Public Meeting Notice website at [www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html](http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html) and click on "login" to set up an account – from there, just follow the prompts! This is a good way to keep informed of important meetings.

## From the Public Safety Department . . . . Truck Purchase vs. Lease

Brian Head Town employs 5 full-time Public Safety Officers. They each have their own Town Truck. For the past several years it has been the Town's policy to purchase one new Public Safety Vehicle per year. Then, the oldest vehicle in the fleet is either given to the Public Works Department or Administration Department or is sold at a Town surplus sale.

This year, the Town is looking at going with a leasing option. The cost of purchasing versus leasing (for 5 vehicles at a time) is almost the same, with the exception of the maintenance and repair costs we pay on the purchased vehicles and the cost to set up the Police equipment (lights, sirens, radios, etc.). The set-up costs are included with the lease option. The lease for each vehicle is approximately \$5,000 per year. The cost to purchase a vehicle is approximately \$29,000 (which includes set-up costs).

Ken Garff Fleet Sales has a lease program especially designed for Police vehicles. Following are some of the highlights of the program:

- ✓ Lease brand new vehicles every 2 years, with new equipment
- ✓ Vehicles and equipment are always under warranty.
- ✓ Maintenance cost is drastically reduced.
- ✓ New leased vehicles are turn-key. No down-time tearing down old vehicles and equipping new cars.

Ken Garff offers a fair market evaluation of the Town's existing fleet and will take a trade-in as a down payment for the new lease. At the end of the two-year lease, the Town will have the choice to continue leasing or to purchase the vehicle.

On June 28, 2011, the Brian Head Town Council voted to try the two-year lease program. Instead of purchasing one new Police vehicle, we will lease one new vehicle. This will be a test run and, if it works well the Council may stay with the lease program. If it doesn't work well, the Council has the option to go back to the purchasing program.

## Brian Head Events – September, October & November, 2011

*(contact the Brian Head Chamber of Commerce at 888-677-2810 for more information on events)*

**September 1 - 5, 2011** – Iron County Fair – Enjoy a good old county fair with a 5K race, mud bog, rodeo, carnival, food, exhibits of local gardening, quilting, sewing, painting, etc., dances, and much more. Location – Iron County fairgrounds in Parowan. Activities will be going all weekend (day and night).

**September 9, 2011** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Red Rock Relay – This is a 180 mile endurance race from Brian Head to St. George. It involves teams of 12 people. Get your team together and join in the fun. For more information go to [www.redrockrelay.com](http://www.redrockrelay.com).

**September 10, 2011** – OHV Dutch Oven Run – Join us for a day of OHV riding from Brian Head to Duck Creek and back again. The ride starts at 9:00 am in Brian Head. A dutch oven lunch will be part of the registration and will be served in Duck Creek. The ride will continue back to Brian Head with a big party at the Grand Lodge to finish the day. There will be prizes, food, music, and drawings.

**September 17 & 18, 2011** – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Oktoberfest – located at the Navajo Lodge is from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm on Saturday and 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm on Sunday. Enjoy authentic German food and music, along with craft booths, etc.

**November 26, 2011** – Thanksgiving weekend bonfire and s'mores – enjoy the bonfire while enjoying hot chocolate and yummy s'mores. This event is free to the public and starts at 7:00 pm at the fire station.



## Brian Head Town Surplus Property Sale

Brian Head Town is having a surplus property sale on Saturday, September 17, 2011. There will be many items up for sale including a pick-up truck, a snow blower, miscellaneous lights, and miscellaneous office equipment. If you are interested in reviewing the items up for bid, you may come into the Town Offices at 56 North Highway 143 the week before the sale (September 12 – 16) to review the list and/or items that will be sold. All items will be sold to the highest bidder.



## Brian Head Chamber of Commerce Says Good-Bye to Angie Haderlie, Director

Angie Haderlie, Director of the Brian Head Chamber of Commerce, has given her notice and is moving on to a college career. The Brian Head Chamber would like to recognize Angie for her years as Director of the Chamber of Commerce. Chamber of Commerce President, Stewart Fausett stated, "Angie did an awesome job for the Chamber and she will be missed!" Angie has an enthusiastic personality and instigated many events in Brian Head. She has spent many weekends organizing Chamber activities including the bonfires and movie nights, which have been fun family activities at Brian Head throughout the years. Among all Chamber activities, the Oktoberfest is probably one of the most memorable. During Oktoberfest, Angie always dresses up and plays the part of a German Fraulein. Maybe she will find time in her new schedule to still be a part of this annual Brian Head tradition. The Chamber members would like to thank Angie for her time

with the Brian Head Chamber of Commerce and they wish her well in her future endeavors.



Volunteers at Oktoberfest 2010 – from left to right: Audrey Cocchia, Melissa Cocchia, Alona Hartlmaier, Kathy Freeberg, Tracy Sotirakis, Angie Haderlie

## Bristlecone Pine

(by Betty Phelan)



Can you believe that one of the oldest living things on earth grows right here in Brian Head? That's right, the Bristlecone Pine. These unique trees only grow in 6 of the western states and Brian Head has an entire forest of them in the Ashdown Gorge. One reason the Bristlecone thrives in Brian Head is that they prefer to grow in elevations between 10,000 to 11,000 feet. The Bristlecone thrives in an exposed, windswept, harsh environment where there is no competition from other plants and little destruction from insects and disease.

The twisted and gnarly appearance of the Bristlecone is due to its multi-trunks that have been worn down from years of environmental damage. This ravaged look is actually a protection mechanism. Though the outer layers of bark appear dead, they are actually protecting the life of the tree. The dead outer layers reduce the amount of water that the tree has to supply to healthy tissue. That is what gives the Bristlecone its unusual

appearance having a large part of the tree look dead and healthy green branches growing from the same tree.

The branches of the Bristlecone look like a bottle brush, with needles in bundles of 5 that are 1 to 1.5 inches long. Needles can live up to 30 years reducing the amount of energy needed to add new needles.

The male flowers are a beautiful reddish purple. The female cones are egg shaped and can be dark purple or brown when mature (which takes 2 years). Even the oldest of the Bristlecones produce seeds that will grow.

The wood that comes from a Bristlecone is very dense and that is why the trees stay standing long after they die. The Forest Service has very strict regulations against taking dead Bristlecone wood from their forests.

To see Brian Head's wonderful old Bristlecone Pine trees go to the Ashdown Gorge and take the Twisted Forest Trail. It is not a long trail but good walking shoes are a must. Young and old alike will be amazed not only by the trees but the beautiful views into Cedar Breaks National Monument as well.



Picture taken along the trail of the Twisted Forest Hike - August 2011

### Geocaching (by Betty Phelan)

Want to have fun with the entire family? Young and old alike will enjoy the new game of geocaching. It is a real world outdoor treasure hunt. Using your GPS (global positioning system) you locate caches that are hidden by fellow geocachers. The game began 10 years ago when the accuracy of GPS units improved to the point where a small container could be specifically placed and located.

The first hidden container or cache was placed in Beavercreek, Oregon. A memorial plaque now sits at the site. In just 10 years the game has grown to 1,486,855 active geocaches and over 5 million geocachers worldwide. There are geocaches on every continent, even the Arctic and Antarctica.

The name originally was GPS stash hunt but morphed through the years to Geocaching. Typically, a geocache will be a waterproof container containing a log book and trade items. Containers can be as small as a film canister and as large as a 5 gallon bucket. The ammo can is the most common container being waterproof, animal proof and fireproof. Geocaches can vary in size, location and difficulty.



The geocacher will hide the container and record the cache's coordinates (latitude and longitude) along with other details of the location (often written in a cipher) and post them on a geocaching website. Other geocachers can access the coordinate information from the website and the game is on. Using their GPS receiver (handheld are best), the geocacher tries to find the hidden container and if successful, logs their name and date found and can add a treasure to the cache. If you add something, you may take something of equal value from the cache. Upon returning home, the geocacher accesses the website and logs the find and can add a comment as well.

One website to use is Geocaching.com. It is free to join, just create a username and PIN. Once you are on the website, you can enter any location in the world and the mile radius you are interested in and the website tells you how many geocaches are in your location. **There are over 500 caches within a 20 mile radius of Brian Head!!**

If a geocache has been vandalized or stolen it is said to have been "muggled". Geocaching got started at the same time the first Harry Potter books were released and the term was borrowed from the Potter vocabulary. People not familiar with geocaching are referred to as muggles. Don't be a muggle!! Go to Geocaching.com and get started. It's a great way to get outside and enjoy our beautiful Brian Head landscape.

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### 2011 Town Election Information

This year, there are two Town Council openings. These will be four-year terms (beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2015). We have three candidates running for office. They are (in alphabetical order): Stewart Fausett (incumbent), Larry R. Freeberg, and John Lorts. Since there are only three candidates running for two Town Council positions, there will be no primary election this year.

Brian Head Town is a by-mail precinct, in which all voting is done by mail. The ballots are generally mailed out three weeks prior to the election. The General election will take place on November 8, 2011. **All voters will need to make sure their ballots are post-marked or hand-delivered to the Town Clerk or Iron County Clerk by November 7<sup>th</sup> in order for their votes to be counted.**

(continued on page 7)



**2011 Town Election Information***(continued from page 6)*

Based on a new election law, the deadline date for “write-in” candidates is 45 days prior to the election. This means those wishing to run as a “write-in” candidate in the general election on November 8<sup>th</sup>, must file a declaration of candidacy with the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 26, 2011.

Please remember to **VOTE!!!!** It is a right that lots of other Countries don’t have. Your vote **does** make a difference! Following is information regarding the Town Council candidates running in this year’s election:

**Stewart Fausett**

I have enjoyed serving as a Town Councilor and would like to continue to do so for the next term. We live in such a beautiful, friendly town. I love everything about Brian Head – the people, the snow, and the visitors! I want to continue to be a part of our growing community by helping to encourage new businesses and visitors to come and enjoy our wonderful resort Town. I would appreciate your vote in November. *See picture and read more about Stewart on page 2 of this newsletter.*



Larry Freeberg

**Larry R. Freeberg**

I have been a Brian Head property owner for over 10 years and have been a full time resident for the last three years. I have participated in Town activities as a Planning Commissioner for the last year. I have a PH.D. from Texas A&M University, and have spent most of my career working for and with engineering and construction companies. My specialty is environmental protection, permitting, documentation, and construction monitoring. I am married; we have three children, and two grand children. I believe in planned growth for our Town. *As a resort town, we must focus not only on the residents and infrastructure needs, but also revenue generating projects that bring people and additional revenue to our Town.* Our Town has focused on the resident needs, such as our infrastructure over the last few years. They were needed and fortunately the Town was able to obtain grants and low interest loans to achieve that goal. This in turn has increased the long term debt to the tax payers by over \$9 million dollars in the last 3 years. To help relieve the property owners for the burden of these debts, we need to develop revenue generating projects that bring additional visitors and business to our Town. *Now is the time to work toward developing these projects, so that we will be ready when the national economy is revitalized and people are*

*ready to spend money at resorts like ours.* I propose a number of small meetings with Town residents and property owners to seek their opinions as to what they see as business opportunities in Brian Head that will grow business and attract people to our Town. In addition, would they be willing to financially support bringing new activities and business in to Brian Head? In the mean time, we need to bring our growth planning up to date related to the current economic conditions, which is much slower than previously anticipated. We need to bring back a balance between the taxpaying property owners and the Town expenditures. This can be achieved by looking at our budget and managing it very closely as well as looking for additional revenue from our visitors. I would appreciate your support toward this opportunity to serve you as a member of the Town Council.



John Lorts

**John Lorts**

My family has enjoyed visiting Brian Head for over 15 years and we have been property owners since 2005. I have experienced success as founder and cofounder of four startups. My lifetime goal has always been to make a positive difference. To that end, my present company has succeeded in providing electricity from alternative energy sources to 600 homes, schools, clinics and orphanages in Haiti and has provided new jobs; all without any government support. The current project will provide power to over 40,000 homes in Haiti. I truly believe that Brian Head has outstanding potential to become a well-known family recreation destination and still maintain a pristine environment. I plan to make it happen with your help. I see potential to increase revenue to Brian Head Town and businesses without increased taxes. I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve you as a member of your Town Council.